

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1 and 3-21 are in the application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8 and 13-19 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to the drawings and to claims 2-4, stating that the features of these claims were not shown in the drawings and that these claims do not limit the subject matter of the apparatus claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the elements of claim 2, now canceled. Applicant submits that the operation of the features of claims 1 and 3-4 is inherent in the device shown in the drawings, and in light of the specification, is immediately apparent to one of skill in the art.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4, 8, and 13-19 to clarify the invention.

In the present invention, a fully hydraulic closing cylinder can be moved away under the machine, in its entirety, in order to be able to move the lower mold clamping plate to a low height

after the mold die has been opened, so that the injection-molded part can be easily removed (see specification).

The term "fully hydraulic" relates to the fact that this cylinder is provided not only for applying the closing force (short stroke) but also to set the die height (long stroke). Enclosed is a drawing on which the die height is greater in the top row than in the bottom row, due to the flatter die. A closing cylinder configured in this manner cannot be derived from the cited state of the art.

While it is true that in U.S. 5,665,405, a short-stroke cylinder can be introduced laterally, this cylinder can merely apply the closing force (short stroke), but cannot serve to adjust the height of the die. Furthermore, a machine that works horizontally is shown in this reference, so that the problem that underlies the invention (comfortable removal height) cannot play any role at all in this reference.

A machine in which an element can be pivoted laterally, which, however, is a passive intermediate piece that is pressed against the bottom mold clamping plate by the actual cylinder 8, whereby the closing pressure is applied, is also known from U.S. 3,737,278. In this regard, this device cannot be compared with the device according to the invention.

It is true that U.S. 1,484,875 shows a vertical machine, but here no cylinder is shown that can be moved completely out of the machine, so that this reference also cannot give any indications in the direction of the object of the invention.

Combining any of these references with each other would not lead to the present invention because there is no teaching or suggestion in any of the references to create a machine such as that claimed in claim 1, in which the cylinder can be moved completely out of the vertical machine, and can be used to apply the closing force (short stroke) and to adjust the height of the die. In summary, it must therefore be said that the device according to the invention gives the opportunity, for the first time, to move a complete closing cylinder and also serves to adjust the die height, laterally out of the vertical machine, and to move it below the die for the injection-molding process. In this connection, the piston of the cylinder is moved out so far that it is adapted to the actual die height. To apply the actual closing pressure, this cylinder is then controlled in such a manner that it performs a short stroke of a few millimeters, in order to press the die halves against one another.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 3-21 are patentable over the prior art, taken either singly or in

combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Copy of Petition for 2-month Extension of time

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile-transmission to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 5, 2004.

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